

# AIRLIFT Dispatch

Vol. 43, No. 8

437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, February 27, 2004

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Airman promotes  
improving beyond norm

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quickly in combat-zone

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work as one team

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## TOP SPOT

2 All-AF Racquetball  
players call CAFB home



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## MISSION POSSIBLE!

Charleston departures	2,487
Maintenance reliability	92.7%
Cargo moved (tons)	11,722
Personnel deployed	642
Reservists activated	894

(Jan. 1 - Feb. 24, 2004)



When the party's over, how are you getting home?



Don't Drink And Drive. Call 963-0437 for a free, confidential ride home on Friday and Saturday nights anytime between 2200-0300 hours.

Need a ride?

This poster, soon to be posted around base, promotes free, confidential rides offered through Airmen Against Drunk Driving. AADD began Feb. 20 and is available to any Department of Defense employee. Page 8.

Graphic by Sean Erbe

Team Charleston: One family, one mission, one fight!

# Commander's Comments

Col. Rowayne Schatz  
437 AW Vice Commander

Three of our colonel-selects have something more to cheer about this week. **Nancy Dezell, Robert Dulong, and Robert Manaker** have been named as candidates for senior developmental education, an important step in their career progression, and recognition of their future potential. Congratulations!

Also tapping his future potential is **Staff Sgt. William Giles**, 437<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron, who has been announced as an Officer Training School selectee. All the best at OTS, Sergeant Giles, and we look forward to seeing you with bars on your shoulders in the near future.

We also congratulate a 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron troop, **Staff Sgt. Jonathan Haigler**, who has been selected to compete in the 2004 Air Force Worldwide Talent Competition, with potential to become a member of Tops in Blue. Break a leg, Sergeant Haigler!

Also worthy of recognition are **Lt. Col. Rupinder Gill** and the entire **legal office** for impressing visiting Judge Advocate General officers during last week's Article Six visit. Read more about it on page 8.

We're looking for a good turnout at the monthly promotion ceremony at 3 p.m. today at the Charleston Club. Come congratulate your troops, your coworkers, your supervisors, your friends, then stay for "Boss and Buddy" time at the club immediately afterwards.

After the promotions, I look forward to seeing many of you at the Black History Dinner and Dance, also at the club. We look forward to hearing inspiring words from Judge Stephanie Ganaway, celebrating some of the heritage that makes this country strong.

This weekend and Monday we'll have a chance to hear another inspiring speaker, as **Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Lorraine Potter**, chief of the Air Force Chaplain Service, visits. Chaplain Potter will preach at Sunday's 11 a.m. worship service, and will remain with us to be the guest speaker at our National Prayer Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Monday, at the Charleston Club.

Also visiting Team Charleston next week is a team from the **C-17 System Program Office**. The team will look at maintenance and operations functions here to take important lessons for setting up C-17 operations at other bases which are soon to become home to the Globemaster III.

Also looking at maintenance and operations here next week, **Brig. Gen. Paul Selva**, commander of AMC's Tanker Airlift Control Center, visits midweek, focusing on command post functions and maintenance and operations scheduling.

We are also honored to host Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management **Michael Montelongo**, who will be here next week for a firsthand look at the C-17 and our operation here. Please give these important visitors a warm Team Charleston welcome when you see them around base.

Giving an energy boost to the fitness culture we're embracing, we'll close out next week with a unique fitness opportunity. **Billy Blanks**, who developed the



Photo by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Shaloma McGovern

**Staff Sgt. Scott Daniel**, 14<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron loadmaster, and **Lt. Col. A.J. McMillan**, 14 AS commander, accept the Fun Run Spirit Trophy from **Col. Wayne Schatz**, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing vice commander, Feb. 20. More than 375 people participated in the 5-kilometer run.

Tae Bo workout, is offering a free session to Team Charleston 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. March 5 at the Corrosion Control Facility, Bldg. 515. The first 400 attendees will get free Tae Bo T-shirts. I encourage you to attend to give your regular workout program—and maybe your wardrobe—a little extra kick next week.

I would like to personally thank the 20 volunteers who took turns waiting by the phone this weekend as part of the Airmen Against Drunk Driving program. This is a promising new service designed to be a confidential safety net for people who have been drinking and find themselves without a designated driver. This is a program of friends helping friends, no questions asked. When you drink, have a plan for how you'll get home, but if your plan falls through, call 963-0437, and a volunteer will take you to your home. If we can prevent just one DUI, this program will be a success. See the article on page 8 for additional details.

As we see news reports of the major troop movement associated with the swap out of troops in Iraq, it's pretty obvious the men and women of Team Charleston will be a big part of the troop rotation. Along with that, we can expect to be asked to maintain a high pace of operations, and I know we're up to the challenge. Thank you for the good work you're doing every day; thank you for your patriotism; and thank you for putting the 'Team' in Team Charleston!

The Commander's Action Line is your direct link to me. It's your opportunity to make Charleston AFB a better place to live, work and play.

First, give the appropriate base agency a chance to solve the problem, but if you don't get a satisfactory answer, call me at **963-5581**, or send an e-mail to [action@charleston.af.mil](mailto:action@charleston.af.mil).

## AIRLIFT Dispatch

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*Visual Information*



# 'Noncommissioned airman in charge'

By Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Bryan Rodvold  
437<sup>th</sup> AW Command Post

Sure I chuckled when I first heard one of my peers say he was the undeclared noncommissioned airman in charge of his office. Yet after much thought, I've come to the conclusion that many airmen fall into this category. It's obvious as an airman, you're noncommissioned. However, the meaning behind the title makes more sense to me than the actual abbreviation.

All military personnel have their limits. Everyone reaches a point in their career where they either stop advancing because their time in service has reached its limit, or because they are incapable of bearing the responsibility required for the next step. What about those who have just started their military career? Those far more capable than where they stand? Just because you can't pin on that extra stripe for another year doesn't necessarily mean you can't push yourself further than the norm. As close as you think you are to career perfection, there is always something to tweak.

So what is the first step to "tweaking" your profession? Observation and evaluation are key components to improvement. Have you ever walked into work and felt there was a process that could be improved? If you feel you could simplify or expedite a task, think of the ways it can be accomplished. Rank

## worth repeating

"As close as you think you are to career perfection, there is always something to tweak."



Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Bryan Rodvold  
437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Command Post

doesn't interfere with your ideas.

There are no restrictions that come with the mind. Always maintain your professionalism when bringing up an idea. If you have an idea to fix a process, remember that the process didn't appear from thin air. Someone at one point established guidelines for all of those tasks you perform every day for a reason, and changing those guidelines doesn't necessarily come as easy as one, two, three.

Addressing issues needed to improve our Air Force must be done with understanding knowledge. An airman is limited in establishing procedure, but that doesn't mean you can't give your opinions to those who aren't. Opinions and ideas are what make the Air Force as great as it is today. One day, you might be in the position where you're the one making the decisions, and getting a

jump start on it early will give you that extra burst to surpass your peers.

One way to get your voice heard would be to take advantage of a tool that was given to you the first day you walked through the door, your supervisor. This is the person whose experiences extend further than yours when you feel that you're "just an airman." Another suggestion would be through the countless surveys the Air Force has to offer, and yes, people actually read them!

My favorite way of addressing improvement is through the Idea Program Data System Web site at <https://ideas.randolph.af.mil/ipdswarn.html>. This site is used for submitting your ideas through the Innovative Development through Employee Awareness program. If you brainstorm an idea that benefits the Air Force, you're looking at a paycheck of up to \$10,000. Now how's that for motivation?

Many complain about certain processes, but never think of the solution. Whenever you find yourself complaining about anything from the smallest tasks to large processes, think of how you can fix them. The NCAIC is an imaginary position but an abrupt reality at the same time. It shares a trait with many airmen who strive to become better at what they do by making changes. Sure, the plant will only grow as large as the pot will let it, but who said its brilliance is limited as well?

## Charleston chat

### How do you take advantage of the Air Force educational benefits?



"I am going to Embry-Riddle to get a degree in professional aeronautics."

— Staff Sgt. Shannon Patrick  
437<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron



"I have started my master's degree, using the 100 percent tuition assistance."

— 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Justin Long  
437<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron



"I am taking my first class at the City Colleges of Chicago to get my CCAF degree."

— Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Stephen Cauley  
437<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron



"I am working on my master's degree at the Citadel at night."

— 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Renee Zimmerman  
437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron



"Air Force benefits have enabled me to finally obtain my goal of receiving a bachelor's degree."

— Master Sgt. Kenneth Chandlee  
437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing

# Deputy judge advocate general visits Team Charleston

By Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith  
437 AW Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Jack Rives, Deputy Judge Advocate General for the U.S. Air Force, was at Charleston AFB last week to do an Article 6 review of the 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Legal office.

General Rives, and his staff of three Air Force-level legal members, visited Charleston Feb. 17 and 18, to get an in-depth, though whirlwind look at the 437 AW JAG and AW mission.

"I received a comprehensive overview of the 437 AW mission, which gives me a firsthand look at the total force concept," he said. "I was impressed with the support that is given by both the (wing) commander and individuals assigned to wing legal offices."

Though similar to an inspection, an Article 6 isn't graded like an inspector general evaluation.

"An Article 6 visit is really a bottom up review

of everything we do (internally and externally) in the Charleston Legal Center," said Lt. Col. Rupinder Gill, 437 AW Staff Judge Advocate. "Preparing for and actually going through an Article 6 provides additional opportunities for the JAGs, paralegals and civilians in the center to look at the processes we employ day-to-day and re-evaluate them to ensure we're providing the support the men and women of CAFB need to accomplish the mission."

The program, which began in 1950, initially focused on the Uniform Code of Military Justice, though over time it changed from strictly U.C.M.J. to reviewing the overall legal system.

"We look into particular concerns and certain trends," General Rives said. "We help evaluate the effectiveness of the Air Force legal system across the board and look for fairness in both reality and perception."

Article 6 reviews are conducted by either Maj.

Gen. Thomas Fiscus, U.S. Air Force JAG, or General Rives, on a regular basis.

"Our goal is to visit each base at least once every three years, including deployed locations," General Rives said.

After each visit the senior legal team discusses their findings during the Article 6 review, talks about concerns and tries to rectify problems that may cause concern. General Rives also sees each visit as the opportunity to get to know his people.

Colonel Gill believes the dedication of his staff ensured a successful Article 6 review.

"The men and women of the Legal Center worked very hard to prepare for the visit — my hat's off to them," he said. "However, it's our 'every day' efforts to provide the very best legal services to the base and community that had the most impact on our visitors. As a result, I believe the visit went very well."

## Team Charleston aircrew thinks fast in combat-zone

By Maj. Linda Pepin  
437 AW Public Affairs

C-17 aircrews on departure from Iraqi airfields are accustomed to being on the lookout for threats to the aircraft, but one Charleston AFB crew from the 16<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron had to wrestle with a threat from within the aircraft on a recent flight out of northern Iraq.

The Globemaster III was loaded with two AH-64H Apache helicopters and 27 soldiers who cheered enthusiastically on lift-off out of Mosul on their way home after a year in Iraq.

Pilot 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Harold Cramer was in the left seat, Capt. Bill Buckingham, aircraft commander, the senior member of the crew at age 31, was in the right. Pilot 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Karen Courington was acting as the third set of eyes for the night-time departure from the hostile area.

"We'd been joking just the day before about things you didn't want to hear over the intercom," Captain Buckingham recalls. "Things like, 'Oh no,' followed by a long pause."

They soon added another 'don't want to hear' to their list.

"Do you smell that?" came over the intercom from loadmaster Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Todd Perkins, as he looked for confirmation from fellow loadmaster Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Thomas Elsworth that something was amiss in the cargo hold.

"That" was a strong odor of fuel. "I could tell from having flown with

[the loadmasters] for over a week that there was something wrong," Captain Buckingham said.

He left the flight deck to investigate, and Lieutenant Courington took the right seat to assist Lieutenant Cramer at the controls.

Airmen Perkins and Elsworth quickly found the source of the odor: fuel was pouring out of the forward-most helicopter onto the cargo deck. Airman Elsworth grabbed pads from the protective clothing kit designed for fuel spills and went to work trying to soak up the fuel, but there was too much.

"The first thing I saw when I went down the stairs was the Army troops up on their seats," to stay clear of the fuel, Captain Buckingham said. As he went further down, he saw the leak, which "looked like a waterfall" to the captain.

"The only thing that ran through my mind was passenger safety, everything else was second nature," Airman Perkins said.

The loadmasters quickly turned off the floor heat and activated the emergency oxygen system for the passengers as a precautionary measure.

"One of the first things that came to my mind was 'don't look nervous for the passengers,'" said Airman Elsworth, who has been on active duty for just over a year.

Apparently a year in Iraq changes one's perspective: "For the most part the passengers were calm," said

Captain Buckingham. "I think they were more worried that we were going back."

Going back was not without risk, but with his priority to get the plane safely on the ground and passengers evacuated, Captain Buckingham went back to the flight deck and quickly made the decision to divert back to Mosul.

"My first thought was to press on versus go back to the [area of responsibility] with bad guys, but the main goal was to get off the airplane," Captain Buckingham said.

With the C-17 highly volatile from fumes and oxygen, the crew flew a night vision goggle approach. To facilitate the NVG approach, Airman Perkins figured out a way to jury-rig a circuit breaker to dim the white lights that accompany the emergency oxygen system.

The aircraft landed without incident, and the crew evacuated the passengers, some of whom still seemed reluctant to leave their "freedom bird," Captain Buckingham said.

"When we evacuated, I was counting heads of the passengers, and one of the passengers said, 'That was so cool,'" Lieutenant Courington said. "I thought if the passengers think it's good, we must have done something right."

On the ground at Mosul, Apache maintenance personnel replaced a valve and secured the leak, and ground crews cleaned the residual

fuel off the C-17. The flying crew chief, fire chief and aircrew agreed that after allowing the fuel to drain from the bottom of the fuselage, the best course of action was to get the aircraft back to Rhein-Main AB, Germany.

Three and a half hours after its unscheduled landing, the relieved Army troops loaded up again, and the aircraft returned uneventfully to the sky for the trip to Germany.

"We had a very experienced aircraft commander," Lieutenant Courington said. "He takes each mission very seriously, and we had an extremely professional crew that worked well together."

"I credit the crew response to being mentally prepared to face anything, especially the catastrophic events," Captain Buckingham said. "For having such a young crew, especially our loadmasters, they impressed me beyond words."

The 437<sup>th</sup> Operations Group deputy commander added his praise for the entire crew.

"Even with far less experience than some crews, this crew drew on their training and used perfect teamwork to get the jet back on the ground safely," Col. Chris Coley said. "The bottom line is they protected the lives of 27 passengers and more than \$400 million in Department of Defense assets. They took advantage of their training to accomplish the mission safely. That's what we're all about."



# BOOM: EOD blows Saddam's bombs sky high



Photo by Capt. Timothy Perez

Senior Airman William Senecal, 380<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal NCOIC of technical data and training, keeps his skills sharp by practicing opening a suspicious box in his bomb suit. Airman Senecal is deployed to the 380 CES from Charleston AFB.



Photo by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Steven Stone

Dirt and debris fly as an explosion marks the destruction of more former Iraqi regime bombs and munitions, not far from the city of Al Nasiriya and near the main road that runs from Kuwait to Baghdad. Team Charleston EOD members assisted Italian Army EOD troops with the disposal of nearly 300 rounds of ordnance in two days.

**By Capt. Timothy Perez**  
380 AEW Public Affairs

Four Team Charleston members deployed with the 380<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal flight at Al Dhafra AB, United Arab Emirates, recently visited Tallil AB, Iraq, where they assisted in identifying and destroying abandoned and captured Iraqi munitions.

The 380<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing began sending EOD troops to Kirkuk AB, Iraq during Air Expeditionary Force Blue.

Each crew consisted of two airmen. Master Sgt. John Ford and Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Steven Stone arrived at Tallil AB Jan. 14, and stayed until Jan. 31. Staff Sgt. Joshua Mal and Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Delbert Guile followed from Jan. 31 to Feb. 15. All four, along with Staff Sgt. Jenae Shanks and Senior Airman William Senecal, are from the 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron.

"Our objective was to provide assistance and technical support to both U.S. Air Force EOD and Italian EOD troops already in place," said Sergeant Ford, EOD flight chief.

According to Ford, the Italian EOD team led the way outside of the air base perimeter, and the U.S. Air Force was responsible for all EOD operations inside the perimeter.

"The Italians were great," said Sergeant Ford. "We worked together to complement each other."

During his and Airman Stone's trip, the Italians were clearing a large bomb dump about 10 kilometers outside the air base near the town of Al Nasiriya. They were also clearing near a main supply route that ran through the area.

"It was nicknamed Giribaldi, and it was about two square kilometers," said Airman Stone. "The Iraqis had tried to use it to destroy many different kinds of munitions, but they had not done a very good job of it. Everything was scattered

about in the open and by the road. Anyone could have come by and picked it up, or accidentally set it off."

By working long hours Sergeant Ford and Airman Stone were able to help clear more than 110,000 rounds of ordnance.

Sergeant Mal and Airman Guile worked mainly on the air base itself during their trip.

"We were responsible for clearing all the roads 50 feet in each direction," said Sergeant Mal. "The primary danger was submunitions, and the smaller they are, the more sensitive they are."

Submunitions consist of anti-tank or personnel bomblets, rockets, fragmentation bombs and fuzes.

According to Airman Guile, submunitions are more likely to go off by mishandling and have to be treated differently than large bombs.

"We had to do what is called a render safe procedure and handle each one individually, whereas in a bomb dump you gather everything together in one place and blow it up," said Airman Guile.

The experiences the airmen have had are not only beneficial for them, but for their fellow EOD team members as well.

"Most of our comrades have never performed an actual render safe procedure," said Sergeant Ford. "Now we will be able to lend our experience to help others prepare for what they may face on deployments."

Sergeant Ford is proud of what his team has accomplished.

"This was the youngest crew I have ever brought on a deployment," he said. "They now have experiences some 15- or 20-year NCOs have never had, and they will use that to lead in the future."

"I feel we really accomplished something," said Sergeant Ford. "I know we saved lives of not only American and Coalition forces, but Iraqi lives as well."

# DD's now available

By Senior Airman Amy Perry  
437 AW Public Affairs

Airmen Against Drunk Driving kicked off Feb. 20 in attempts to lower the number of Team Charleston members receiving Driving Under the Influence or Driving While Intoxicated offenses.

Twenty volunteers manned the phones Feb. 20 and Saturday to keep Team Charleston safe. AADD runs from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Several volunteers meet at the 16<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron auditorium during those hours awaiting phone calls from Charleston AFB members.

Any Department of Defense employee can call 963-0437 during those hours to get a free ride home, as long as they present their DOD ID card. No names will be recorded, and IDs are only being checked to ensure people are authorized to use this program.

"We want people to use this free, confidential program," said Senior Airman Aaron Stransky, an AADD coordinator. "People can call without fear of reprisal. The volunteers just want to stop people from drinking and driving; they are not looking to turn someone in."

When someone calls in, they will be asked their location, a telephone number to reach the party at and a way to identify them. The dispatcher will only record the location and time a pick-up was made.

Anyone can volunteer to be an AADD driver, and if someone does not have a vehicle, there's still a job for them. They can ride along with a driver since two people are required to make each trip, or they can stay back at the 16 AS to watch the phone.

For more information about volunteering or the AADD program, e-mail [aadd.charleston@charleston.af.mil](mailto:aadd.charleston@charleston.af.mil).



# Nat'l Prayer Luncheon

By 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Shaloma McGovern  
437 AW Public Affairs

Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Lorraine Potter, chief of the Air Force Chaplain Service in Washington D.C., is the guest speaker at the National Prayer Luncheon 11:30 a.m. Monday at the Charleston Club.

Chaplain Potter's luncheon speech is entitled, "Where is God?"

"Chaplain Potter has been a fore-runner in ministry and the chaplaincy blazing new trails and leaving a strong legacy of faith and military leadership wherever she goes," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Cassandra Thomas, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing chaplain. "She was the first woman ordained by American Baptist Churches, first female chaplain in the Air Force and the first female chaplain in the Department of Defense to achieve colonel and general."

Chaplain Potter is also the first woman to be chief of any armed services' chaplain corps, and has paved the way for other women to become chaplains,

Chaplain Thomas said.

The chaplain advises on all matters pertaining to the religious and moral welfare of Air Force people. She is also responsible for establishing an effective total chaplain program to meet the religious needs of all Air Force members. In addition, she is the senior pastor for a combined active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian force of more than 850,000 people who serve at approximately 1,300 locations in the U. S. and overseas.

Soon after Congress convenes each year, men and women in leadership positions from various aspects of American life gather for discussion and prayer on the occasion of what is known as the National Prayer Breakfast. Team Charleston elected to hold a luncheon instead of a breakfast because it is easier to accommodate attendees.

Tickets for the National Prayer Breakfast cost \$5 per person and can be obtained from unit first sergeants or by calling the Chapel at 963-2536.



## Recruiting service unveils new bus design

**WASHINGTON** – Air Force Recruiting Service officials rolled out their latest advertising campaign to senior leaders Feb. 19: ten very colorful buses.

The vehicles are covered with a shrink-wrap design rather than a traditional paint scheme. Each vehicle features pictures of the F/A-22 Raptor, several airmen and contact information for those interested in joining the Air Force.

The vehicles will be based at four locations around the country for use during high-visibility missions. Four 45-passenger buses will operate out of Bolling AFB, D.C., carrying the Air Force Band, drill team and distinguished visitors. A survey van and a shuttle bus will support youth center and team athletic events at Randolph AFB, Texas. Three 45-passenger buses will support team, band and NCAA athletic events at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo. One 45-passenger bus will support civic leader tours and other events at Nellis AFB, Nev. **(Air Force Print News)**

## BDUs in short supply

**DALLAS** – Backorders from the military supply system are affecting the availability of battle dress uniforms in military clothing sales stores.

Both Army and Air Force clothing stores are out of stock on selected sizes of the enhanced hot weather and temperate BDU coats and trousers.

The military supply system advised Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials that the “get-well date” for the temperate BDUs will be August.

Representatives from Defense Supply Center in Philadelphia said the current supply condition is because of the need to produce many more desert BDUs than the woodland style as a result of the war in Iraq. **(Air Force Print News)**

## Military offers dental assistance in Thailand

**KORAT, Thailand** – U.S. military forces participating in Cope Tiger 2004 here helped improve the

health and welfare of more than 2,100 Thai villagers during a three-day medical and dental civic assistance program visit Feb. 20 to 22.

About 20 U.S. physicians, dentists and medical technicians — comprised of airmen, Marines and sailors — provided care alongside their Royal Thai and Republic of Singapore air force counterparts for residents of seven rural villages.

The free medical treatment for the villagers included 900 eye exams by U.S. optometrists. Dentists also extracted 380 teeth from 318 patients. **(Air Force Print News)**

## Leaders call for suicide-prevention efforts

**WASHINGTON** – After 11 active-duty suicides since Jan. 1 and 14 during the final quarter of 2003, Air Force senior leaders are asking commanders and leaders across the service to assess and re-ener-

gize suicide prevention efforts at all levels.

The Air Force requires active-duty and civilian personnel to attend suicide-prevention briefings once during the 15-month air and space expeditionary force cycle.

In light of the recent suicides — none of which occurred during operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom — senior leadership urged commanders to “review how well we continue to implement the 11 initiatives that serve as the foundation of the Air Force Suicide Prevention Program.” **(Air Force Print News)**

## U.S. citizenship available for airmen

**WASHINGTON** – Foreign-born servicemembers can now speed up the process to obtain American citizenship.

The immediate eligibility for servicemembers to become naturalized citizens is based on Execu-

tive Order 13269 signed by President Bush on July 3, 2002. Section 329 of the 8 U.S. Code allows the president to authorize expedited citizenship during periods in which the United States is engaged in armed conflict with a hostile foreign force.

The peacetime waiting period is shortened to one year of honorable service, thanks to the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act.

Beginning Oct. 1, the new law allows for U.S. citizenship applications to be finalized at U.S. embassies, consulates and selected military installations overseas, to include citizenship interviews, testing and oaths of allegiance. Also effective Oct. 1, the new law waives the \$310 citizenship application and fingerprint fee.

Soldiers and airmen seeking to become naturalized U.S. citizens under the expedited process can contact their military personnel office or visit <http://uscis.gov>. **(Air Force Print News)**



Photo by Tech Sgt. Brian Davidson

## OSI faces evil

Special Agent Tony searches for a suspected Taliban weapons cache in Qalakhel, Afghanistan. Agent Tony is a member of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations' anti-terrorism specialty team deployed from Lackland AFB, Texas. (Special agents are only identified by their last names.)

## Spotlight

**FVAP:** The Federal Voting Assistance Program is holding a workshop at 1 p.m. Thursday in the Wing Conference Room, Bldg. 1600. This is mandatory for all appointed Unit Voting Assistance officers. For more information, call the Installation Voting Officer, Maj. Edward Parker, at 963-6855.

**Award Ceremony:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group is hosting their Annual Awards Ceremony at 1 p.m. Friday in Bldg. 519. For more information, call 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Tim Dodson at 963-2791.

## Around the base

**College registration:** Registration for all on-base colleges runs Monday through March 12 at the Education Center. For more information, call the base education center at 963-4575.

**Tobacco Cessation Class:** A new class will begin at 4 p.m. Tuesday at the Health and Wellness Center. The class meets one hour a week for five weeks. For more information or to sign up, call the HAWC at 963-4007.

**Christian magician:** Toby Travis, a Christian magician, will perform a free show at 6:30 p.m. March 5 at the Base Chapel. For more information or tickets, call the base chapel at 963-2536.

**Air show golf tournament:** A golf tournament is set for 8:30 a.m. March 12 at the Wrenwoods Golf Course to raise money for the air show. For more information or to register, call Master Sgt. Tim Kelley at 963-6401.

**Racquetball players needed:** Air Force Sports is selecting a racquetball team during April for the U.S. National Single Racquetball Championship in Houston scheduled for late May. Active-duty members, full-time reservists and full-time guardsmen are eligible. For more information, call Eddie Goad at 963-3347.

**OSA scholarship:** The Officers' Spouses Association is offering the Silver Wings Scholastic Award to selected Air Force dependents for the 2004-2005 academic year. All

## Charleston Warrior of the Week

### Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Dominique Hawkins

✉ [\\$ILOVE TXDGURQ](mailto:$ILOVE TXDGURQ)

Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Dominique Hawkins is a loadmaster in the 15<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron. As a combat-ready loadmaster, he is responsible for planning and executing airland and airdrop missions. He also performs pre-flight, thru-flight and post-flight checks of the aircraft and aircraft systems. Loadmasters are also responsible for computing the weight and balance of the aircraft, the cargo handling and restraining techniques, the cargo and passenger manifests, aircraft emergency equipment and the customs border clearance and entry requirements.

The Sacramento, Calif., native has been in the Air Force for less than two years. He joined for the travel opportunities, chance to meet new people and to participate as part of the Air Force mission.

Loadmasters go on temporary duty for nearly two weeks every month, but Airman Hawkins still finds time to volunteer as a tutor at Lambs Elementary.

His future goal is to get a teaching degree. He plans to join the Air Force Reserve, return to California and become a history teacher.

Airman Hawkins was featured on the cover of the February 2004 issue of Airman magazine.

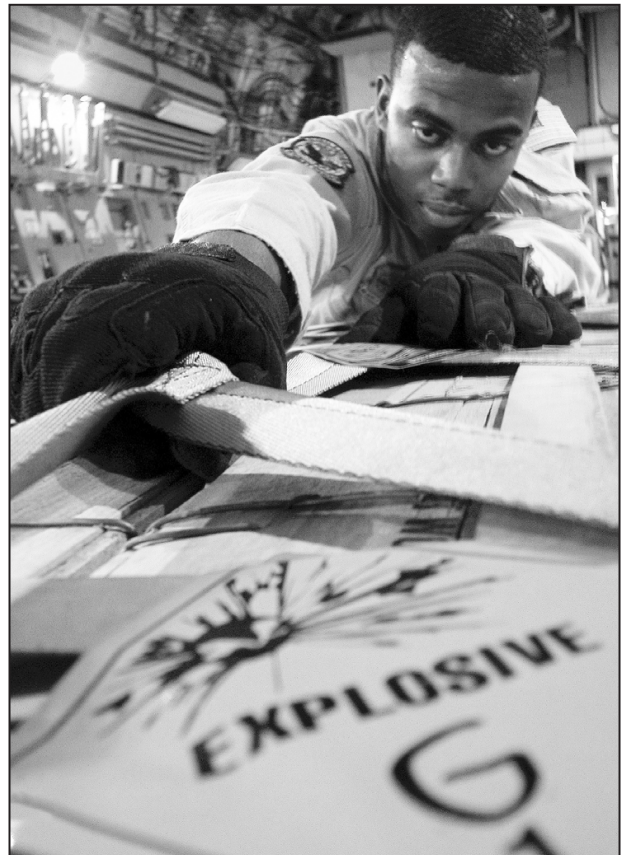


Photo by Master Sgt. Lance Cheung

applications must be postmarked by April 1. Applicants will be notified by April 15. For more information, pick up an application at any of the following locations: Family Support Center, Fitness Center, Youth Center, Vet Clinic, Medical Clinic, Outdoor Recreation Center, Education Office, Housing Office and Consignment Shop.

**Construction:** There is major housing renovation work in progress on Gross, Batson, Hitchcock, Cobb, Reid and Hodge Avenues in the base housing area. Work on Gross Avenue is expected to be completed by June 1. Drive cautiously and be aware of workers during this period of construction. The entire project is estimated to be complete by mid-July.

**Massing of the colors:** The massing of the colors will commence 3 p.m. March 7 at the Summerall Chapel on the Citadel Campus. The Citadel Buglers and Bagpiper will present the colors.

**Attention retirees:** All military retirees are asked to send their e-mail address to [cafbrao@charleston.af.mil](mailto:cafbrao@charleston.af.mil). E-mail blasts about timely information for retirees are sent out frequently.

**VA benefit act:** The new Veterans Benefit Act of 2003 allows survivors of members who died of service-connected illness to retain benefits. For more information, call Kathleen Perry at 963-6334.

**Recall rosters:** Recall rosters are a tool for commander's to uti-

lize to accomplish the mission in recalling their troops in time of need or emergency. The roster should be properly protected, used for official business and only accessed by personnel with a valid need to know.

**Bulldog Challenge:** Join the Bulldog challenge noon April 17 at the Citadel. The cost is \$15 per person or \$90 per team. The Bulldog challenge is a six-person seven mile competition. For more information, e-mail the race director at [bulldogchallenge@citadel.edu](mailto:bulldogchallenge@citadel.edu)

**Anti-terrorism tip of the week:** Remember to keep a low profile. Do not advertise that someone is part of a military service. For more information, call the 437<sup>th</sup> Security Forces at 963-3600.



# Aircrews get it done together

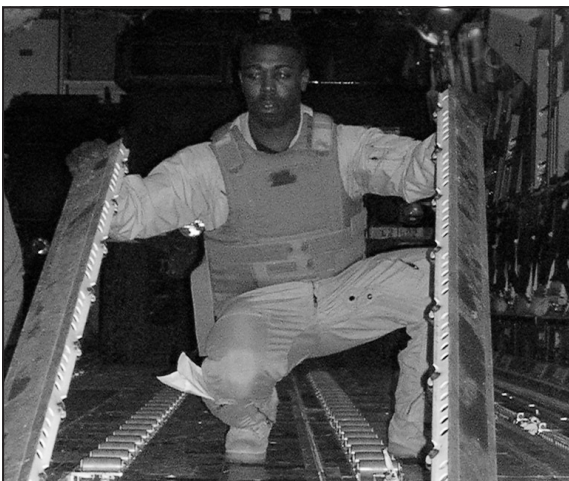


Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Sarah Knight, 14<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron loadmaster, ensures an Army Humvee is loaded correctly onto a C-17 at Kirkuk AB, Iraq.

*Photos by Senior Airman Amy Perry*



First Lt. Jordan Norman, 14<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron co-pilot, moves cargo on the C-17. Pilots and loadmasters work together to get the cargo into place to quickly get the plane back in the air.



Tech. Sgt. Mike Rodgers, 14<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron loadmaster, overturns rollers on the floor of a C-17 at Kirkuk AB, Iraq. Cargo rollers are built into the floor of C-17s to make it easier to load cargo.



Col. Wayne Schatz, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing vice commander, places rollers on the cargo door to prepare for an upload of cargo at Kirkuk AB, Iraq, recently.



Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Sarah Knight, 14<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron loadmaster, checks the weight measurements for cargo loaded on a C-17.

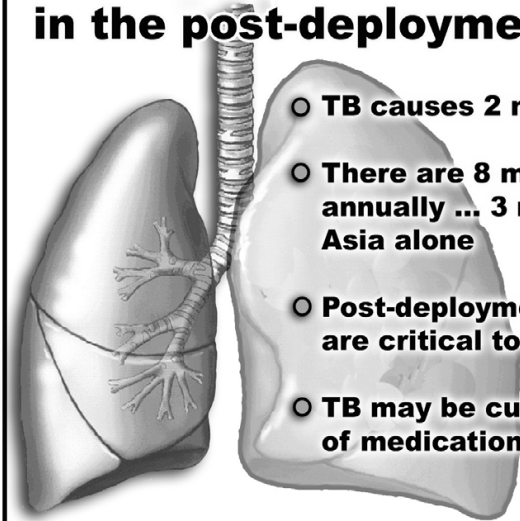
Photo by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jason Bailey

### Fit to jam

Theanne Long, left, leads Team Charleston participants in the Black History Month Aerobics Super Jam Feb. 19 at the Sports and Fitness Center. The aerobics session was designed to promote another avenue for warriors to become fit to fight and to raise awareness about aerobic courses offered each week at the Sports and Fitness Center. For more information, call the fitness center at 963-3347.

## WELLNESS TIP

### Why is Tuberculosis addressed in the post-deployment questionnaire?



- TB causes 2 million deaths annually
- There are 8 million new cases of TB annually ... 3 million in Southeast Asia alone
- Post-deployment health assessments are critical to identify at-risk deployers
- TB may be cured with six to 12 months of medication

SOURCE: AMC Command Surgeon Office

InforGraphic by TSgt. Mark Diamond

### Chapel schedule



**107 Arthur Drive**  
**Office:** Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
**Phone:** 963-2536.

After duty hours, call the command post at 963-2531 for emergencies only.

**Catholic Services:** *Saturday* - 4:15 p.m. Reconciliation, 5 p.m. Mass. *Sunday* - 9:30 a.m. Mass, 9:30 a.m. Children's Church. Sacrament of Baptism pre-baptismal classes are held the first Sunday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Chapel Annex. Daily Mass is from 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

**Protestant Services:** *Sunday* - 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Bldg. 245, 11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service and 11 a.m. Children's Church. *Sunday* - 5 p.m. Contemporary Worship Service. *Wednesday* - noon Protestant Bible Study.

For information on other faith groups, call the Base Chapel at 963-2536.

### Movie schedule

**Admission:** 99 cents for adults and children.

Any person under 17 years of age requires a parent or adult guardian (a minimum of 21 years old) to purchase an admission ticket for the minor to view R-rated movies. The ticket office opens 30 minutes prior to the start of the movie, unless otherwise noted.

Movie schedules are provided by AAFES.

Patrons should call 963-3333 to verify movie titles, running times and start times, which are subject to change.



**Today, 7:30 p.m.**

¥%LJ ) LVKµ ( ZDQ0 F\* UHURU

Edward, a braggart, has always exaggerated his exploits and experiences when he left his small town in Alabama for adventures near and far. Nearly everyone has been spellbound by Edward's terrific tall tales over the years. His estranged son, who never cared for his tall tales, has come home to take care of his dying dad and separate fact from fiction. (PG-13) 110 minutes

**Saturday, 7:30 p.m.**

¥\$ORQ &DP H3R00µ %HQ6W0U

Reuben's best plans for life and love career wildly off track when his wife dumps him on their honeymoon. Stunned and humiliated, Reuben plans to play it safer than ever. But an encounter with a childhood friend named Polly shoots him into a whirlwind of living in the moment activities. (PG-13) 90 minutes

**March 5, 7:30 p.m.**

¥0\ %DE\ V' DGGµ (GGH\* WILQ

(PG-13) 99 minutes





Ray Cordero reaches to hit a low bounce during a practice game. Cordero practices daily to prepare for the upcoming tournaments.



Ray Cordero, 14<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron first sergeant, serves to Mark Fuhrmann, left, 17<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron pilot, and Matt Harless, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing career assistance advisor, during a practice game.

## CAFB sports 2 All-AF Racquetball players

**Story and photos by  
Senior Airman Amy Perry**  
437 AW Public Affairs

Two Team Charleston members swept top places in a local tournament recently.

All Air Force Racquetball players Ray Cordero, 14<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron first sergeant, and Mark Fuhrmann, 17<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron pilot, took first and second, respectively, in the open division at the Lowcountry Classic in early February. Cordero also placed first in the over 25 age division.

With the nationals coming up in Houston in late May, the two said it was important to play in local, state and regional tournaments to prepare.

"We have to tune-up to get ready for higher tournaments," said Cordero. "Although Air Force Racquetball players don't have to play any state or regional tournaments to make it to nationals, it's good to get out there to see what the competition will be like during the nationals."

Cordero has played on the Air Force team since 2001, and Fuhrmann has played off and on again for five years since 1996.

For Fuhrmann, the Air Force racquetball program is a family thing.

"My dad, a retired colonel, coached the team a few years ago, and my brother, an active duty captain, is about the best racquetball player the Air Force has ever had," said Fuhrmann. "He's ranked 24<sup>th</sup> in the world and has three national titles. He has won in the over 25, over 30 and doubles divisions.

Cordero and Fuhrmann usually practice together to prepare for other tournaments. Another past-Air Force Racquetball player, Matt Harless, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing career assistance advisor, joins them for the practices.

"It's awesome to be able to compete with the highest-level players," said Fuhrmann. "We use each other to make each other better."

Cordero and Fuhrmann are also in first place in the base racquetball doubles league. Games are played at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.



Matt Harless hits one up during a practice game recently. Harless played on the Air Force Racquetball team from 1989 to 1992.